(c) 17

(d) 1463

(e) The waiting list is likely to be cleared by March, 1997.

(f) 673

(g) 661

(h) All the Gram Panchayats are likely to be covered with telephone facility during IXth Plan period.

Survey for New Railway Lines

2024. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :
SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :
SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any survey for new railway lines has been conducted/proposed to be conducted during the current year;

(b) if so, the details thereof, zone-wise;

(c) the allocation made for each survey; and

(d) the time by which the survey is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c). The information is contained in the Demands for Grants Part-II, pages 2.1.01 to 2.1.22 supplied to the Hon'ble Members with the documents of the Railway Budget 1996-97 and may kindly be referred to.

(d) The completion of surveys is a gradual and on-going process.

[English]

Implementation of New Labour Policies

2025. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to use the services of ILO in framing and implementing new labour policies;

(b) if so, whether the Planning Minister attended the tripartite workshop on Economic Reforms and Labour policies organised by ILO;

(c) if so, whether the findings of the report "Indian Reforms and Labour Policies" were discussed in the workshop; and

(d) if so, the type of help ILO has agreed to provide to India?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of St. Mary's Island

2026. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal was made by the Government of Karnataka to the Union Government to develop St. Mary's Island of the Mangalore Coast as a tourist Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (c). Development of tourist centres is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, however the Department of Tourism provide Central Financial assistance for specific projects based on their merits, inter-se-priority and availability of funds.

Government of Karnataka has not submitted any proposal for development of St. Mary's Island of Mangalore.

[English]

Use of Helicopters

2027. SHRI SANDIPAN THORAT : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that with the entry of a number of multinational corporation in oil, power and other key areas the potential for use of helicopters is likely to witness a great upsurge in the next few years;

(b) if so, the present strength of helicopter fleet owned by the Government and other private corporates and the plans drawn up for their expansion in future;

(c) details of operations planned by the private corporate to provide regular services for promotion of tourism in various sectors; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to strengthen infrastructure facilities for increased operation of helicopters including training facilities for pilots and supporting staff and workshop for maintenance/repairs etc.?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATI N AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The fleet strength of helicopters of various agencies is as under :-

Central Government	4
State Governments	18